

Clerk's Message
By: Sheryl Loesch, Clerk of Court

It's always hard to believe that another year has come and gone so quickly, but it's also exciting to think about what interesting events are ahead in the upcoming year. Here are a few recent developments.

The Court's IT staff continues to maintain and upgrade our computer systems, including CM/ECF and Zoom. Although this work goes on behind the scenes, our Court couldn't function without their valuable assistance. On behalf of our judges and all our staff, I'd like to thank our Chief Deputy José Rodriguez, Bill Miguenes, Isaac Pagán, Wesley Beaubian, Acel Masar, Richard Day, Armando Diaz, Robert Smith, Sara Mason, Christine Baker, and Marco Eguía Vera.

The judges have adopted a new Notice of Hearing form that directs parties to the judge's webpage for hearing procedures, including in-person hearings and remote appearances by Zoom for telephone or video. For more information, please see the revised sample forms in the Court's Procedure Manual ([General/Notices of Hearing](#)) and update your forms. Please note that, except for Judge Funk, telephonic appearances before all judges are via Zoom.

In September 2023, the Court entered Administrative Order [FLMB-2023-2](#), which vacates a prior pandemic-related Administrative Order. As was required prior to the pandemic, attorneys must obtain their client's and signatories original signatures on papers such as bankruptcy petitions, supporting lists and schedules, affidavits, and unsworn declarations *before filing the paper in CM/ECF*.

In December 2023, the Court entered an Amended Administrative Order Prescribing Procedures in Chapter 13 Cases ([FLMB-2023-3](#)) to clarify the Middle District's current procedures. The Court also adopted a revised Model Plan and revised the form Order Confirming Plan. For a summary of the revisions, please see the [Announcements](#) tab on the left side of the Court's website.

Several of our long time staff members have recently retired; we are currently recruiting to hire three case managers and a programmer/analyst. We hope to have these positions filled quickly and to welcome new staff into our court family.

We have several events scheduled in early 2024. On February 6, the Court will hold a portrait ceremony in Jacksonville honoring the late Judge Cynthia C. Jackson. Chief Judge Delano will present her State of the District messages in Jacksonville on February 7, in Orlando on February 8, in Fort Myers on February 29, and in Tampa

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on March 12. And the annual ABI/Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar is scheduled in in Tampa on February 15-16.

Each new year comes with its own challenges and changes. I look forward to the challenges and changes ahead and to working with each of you!



2024
Happy New Year